



Youth Services Conduct

Purpose

The Nippersink Public Library District (“Library”) is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment for children and families. While Library staff are available to assist children in using Library resources, they are not responsible for supervising or disciplining minors. The Library does not act in loco parentis (“in the place of a parent”).

This policy establishes caregiver responsibilities and behavioral expectations to ensure the safety and well-being of children using the Library.

Policy Statement

- Children aged 10 and under must be directly supervised by a parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver (aged 14 or older). Direct supervision means the child remains within sight of the caregiver at all times.
- During youth programs, caregivers of children aged 10 and under must remain in the building for the duration of the program but do not need to stay in the program room.
- Children aged 11 and older may use the Library independently, provided they follow Library rules and the caregiver is reachable by phone.
- Unsupervised children must be able to state their full name, caregiver’s name, and contact number when asked. If an incident occurs and a caregiver cannot be reached, the police may be notified.

Behavioral Expectations

Children and caregivers are expected to follow all Library policies and maintain appropriate behavior while on Library property. Expectations include, but are not limited to:

- No running, climbing, yelling, throwing, fighting, or other disruptive behavior.
- Covered drinks and dry snacks are permitted if they do not emit a strong odor.
- Patrons must clean up after themselves, including toys, crafts, and food.
- Tops, bottoms, and footwear must be worn at all times.
- Patrons exhibiting symptoms of illness (e.g., fever, vomiting) should not visit the Library until 24 hours after symptoms resolve.
- Bathrooms must be used for all toileting and diapering needs.
- Individuals emitting strong odors that interfere with others’ comfort may be asked to leave.
- Patrons may not enter staff-only areas or go behind service desks.

Violations of Library policies may result in the temporary or permanent loss of Library privileges for both the caregiver and the child.



Unattended Children

The Library assumes no responsibility for children left unattended on Library property, including before or after Library programs or operating hours.

If:

- A caregiver cannot be located,
- The Library is closing, or
- The safety of a child appears to be at risk,

Staff are authorized to contact the police and will remain with the child until authorities arrive.

Use of Youth Services Area

The Youth Services Department is intended for use by children, their caregivers, teachers, and students accessing children's materials. Adults unaccompanied by children are asked to remain in the Adult Services area unless actively selecting materials from the youth collection. Adults using youth materials should take them to the Adult Services area for reading or use.